

# The Commoner.

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**William J. Bryan.**

Editor and Proprietor.

## Tillman and McLaurin.

The most important item of political news last week came from South Carolina. Senators Tillman and McLaurin have agreed to leave their political differences to a democratic primary and to that end have placed their resignations in the hands of the governor to take effect in November, after the primary has determined the wishes of the voters. It is an honorable course for the senators to pursue and beneficial to the state. At present South Carolina virtually has no voice in the settlement of public questions as the vote of one senator kills the vote of the other.

Senator Tillman has just been re-elected and thus risks the loss of a longer term, but Senator McLaurin really sacrifices more because he has less chance to win at the primary.

The readers of the Commoner will be kept informed as to the progress of the contest. It is needless to say that the editor of this paper hopes and expects to see Senator Tillman win a sweeping victory, because he represents the man, while Senator McLaurin represents the dollar. The vote will show whether the plutocratic idea is making any headway in the south.

## "What About Next Week?"

When President McKinley was addressing the laboring men at San Francisco and congratulating them upon their "prosperity" and "contentment," one brawny wage-earner arose and asked, "What about next week?" Of course, he was guilty of some discourtesy in thus interrupting a meeting made notable by the presence of the chief executive, and his companions beckoned to him to be silent. But he could not have asked a more embarrassing question at a republican meeting. The administration is living in the present, with no thought or plan for the future. It might be well for the president to consider the simple question propounded by the California toiler.

The railroads are consolidating, shutting out competition, issuing watered stock, and making worthless securities dividend-paying by the exercise of arbitrary power in the fixing of rates. They are having things all their own way now, but—"What about next week?"

The trusts are swallowing the industries, building up enormous fortunes, and levying tribute upon the entire country. They may be willing to contribute largely to the republican campaign fund today, but what will be the effect upon industry?—"What about next week?"

The money changers are in control of our

finances, they can expand or contract the currency at will; they can make more out of the fluctuations of the market than they can in legitimate business; they rule with a rod of iron, but what is the end?—"What about next week?"

Imperialism is rampant, speculators are planning forays against distant lands; carpet baggers are growing fat and respect for political principles and moral precepts is being lost sight of; some people are making money out of it, but—"What about next week?" If the republicans are not too busy to think, if "prosperity" leaves them time for reflection, they will find it worth while to answer to their own satisfaction, if they can, that pertinent and perplexing question, "What about next week?"

## Blackburn on Reorganization.

The Washington Post publishes an interview with Senator Joe Blackburn of Kentucky. It is in his characteristic style and will be interesting to those who are watching the efforts of the "reorganizers." Here are the questions and answers as reported by the Post.

"Has not Col. Watterson succeeded in stirring up any interest in the reorganization of the democratic party?" Senator Blackburn was asked.

"The democratic party needs no reorganization," he declared with the vehemence of conviction. "If it did, we would turn the job over to Senator Hanna rather than to Grover Cleveland. Hanna has demonstrated that he has capacity as an organizer, while Cleveland is chiefly remembered as a disorganizer of his party."

"The trouble is," Senator Blackburn explained, "that most of the men who are now so anxious to have the democratic party reorganized burned their bridges behind them when they left the party in 1896. As they can't get back into the party, they are now trying to get the party outside to them. It is like a man who has been sent to jail, and in his longing for society tries to get every one else in the same predicament. The men who have fought the battles of the democratic party during the past five years, the men who cast their fortunes with it and were willing to stand or fall with its principles, are not worrying about its reorganization."

## A Dangerous Man.

About inauguration time a prominent railroad president who was visiting Washington declared that it might become necessary to elect a democrat next time because of the odium which the republican party was bringing upon itself. When asked to name a satisfactory candidate he mentioned a prominent democrat whose availability is now being canvassed. This railroad president was asked how Tom Johnson would do and his reply was that Johnson was not a "safe man," that he was, in fact, a "dangerous man." Something has occurred in Cleveland recently which supports the opinion expressed by this railroad president and shows that Mr. Johnson is in truth a "dangerous man" to corporations that

avoid taxation or seek some unfair advantage at the expense of the people.

Mayor Johnson has been trying to raise the assessment of the railroads. According to the Columbus Press Post he said:

"The members of that state board will place the railroads on the same level with residence property and farm lands, or there'll be such a storm of indignation throughout the state that they will be swept out of political life forever."

When the assessment was raised from 12 per cent to 13 per cent (Johnson wanted it raised to 60 per cent) he is reported to have said to them:

"Gentlemen, you ought to be proud of yourselves. You have been as good to this charitable institution, the Pennsylvania Railroad company, as you know how. I hope that every one of you will be defeated should you aspire to a re-election or any other office. If I can help to defeat you I will do so."

All of this goes to show that Mr. Johnson is a "dangerous man." As he is in favor of making the corporations pay their share of the taxes and stand on the same level with the farmer and home owner, he is probably a "demagogue," and if he sticks to his resolve to do his duty to the public he may after a while be called an "anarchist." The fact that Mr. Johnson, while supporting the national ticket heartily in 1896 and 1900, has not been known as a radical silver man will not be sufficient to protect him from the wrath to come. The corporations will not permit any independence in thought or act. No one can enjoy their smiles unless he is willing to abandon conscience and conviction, and obey every command without questioning.

## Blacklisting.

Judge Frank Baker, of the Cook County, (Ill) Circuit Court, has rendered an important decision on the subject of blacklisting. The following is a statement of the facts, together with his reasoning:

"Plaintiff alleges that she is an expert can labeler, able to earn \$15 per week at her trade. That defendants are canners at the Union Stock Yards and are all the persons engaged in that business at that place. That upon February 5, 1900, defendants maliciously, etc., agreed and conspired together not to employ any employee of any one of them who should go out on a strike or quit on account of a disagreement as to wages, except by consent of the former employer. That for two years before February 5, 1900, plaintiff was employed by defendants Libby, McNeil & Libby, and on that day quit because of disagreement as to wages. That she afterward applied to defendants, Armour & Co., and Fairbank Canning Company, for employment, and was denied such employment because of said agreement and conspiracy. All this, it is alleged, was done maliciously with the intent to injure plaintiff. Defendants demur to the declaration.

"The case has been fully and most ably argued, both orally and in writing. I shall not review the numerous authorities cited nor attempt to do more